

Ironwood Forest National Monument
Transportation Management Project Planning
Implementation of the Resource Management Plan - Public Meeting

Wednesday, July 17, 2013, 6:30-8:30PM
Marana Parks and Recreation Building, 13251 N Lon Adams

Meeting Notes

Meeting Purpose: To present the information collected over the last 4 weeks and gather information on what is important to do over the next 3-5 years, subject to funding availability and permissions.

I. Presentation of proposed projects

Map 1. Proposed route nomination for Federal Land Access Program Road (FLAP) designation

Q: Why not also have Trico/Marana Rd. highlighted as a main route?

A: We want to identify the one that is the most feasible and easy to give directions to. This also piggy-backs on the existing signage for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and Saguaro National Park. Those roads are the easiest to identify and follow for new users. Trico/Marana Road and Sunland Gin Road will also be considered for nomination.

Q: So you don't want any identifier for IFNM on I-10?

A: Yes that's correct. But through other information (brochures, maps, etc.), people will be directed to take that exit. We want to market it as a secondary recreational attraction. There may also be safety issues if freeway signs attract automobiles that are not appropriate for the roads in IFNM.

Q: Could people get info at Saguaro West also?

A: Yes.

Q: Why focus on a loop system when the audience you're targeting is likely going to want to disperse out?

A: Some people who don't plan IFNM as a target destination will end up there, and a loop provides something they can do regardless of the car they're in..

Q: Is Sasco road a candidate for road improvement?

A: It is a candidate for road improvement and potential nomination for FLAP, if agreeable to Pinal County.

Q: Other than the roads indicated here, you don't plan signage on any other roads?

A: Every public access route (county roads) will be signed. Once at the monument there will be some meet and greet info.

Q: Have you considered the I-11 route?

A: The timeline is far out for planning now, and route is not finalized. If it develops over time the signing and Monument access route system to the IFNM may require adjustment. There will be time to identify concerns related to the IFNM during planning and environmental impact studies for I-11.

Comment: The I-11 project is a pretty substantial regional project, and it is in motion.

Comment: In the winter, several cars looking for Saguaro National Park West a week end up at the Asarco Silverbell Mine . Park bound travelers heading west on Avra Valley Road from the I-10 Exit miss the small directional sign at the turnoff at Sandario Road, and keep following the pavement into the mine. May need to work with NPS on making a bigger sign at the Sandario and Avra Valley junction.

Map 2. Asset Type Designations for the Monument Transportation System Identified Concurrently with the RMP

Q: I don't want to be blocked out of primitive roads that I've been using for years.

A: Routes that have use restrictions will be signed and if needed barriers or gates will be installed. Some primitive roads have been identified for administrative access only (but public can also use these by non-motorized means, and special recreation permits may allow motorized use). We are identifying methods and ways to implement the use restrictions and accommodate the allowable uses.

Map 3. Proposed Monument Road Maintenance Projects – 5 Year Plan

Q: Will Waterman Peak Road be paved?

A: No – it is under an existing Right-of-Way and already paved for access to the active Pioneer quarry. This road will be maintained by the Right-of-Way holder.

Map 4. Proposed site improvements and developments

No questions

Map 5. Proposed easements and rights of way

Q: On the Agua Dulce/Agua Blanca, where some of it comes into the County you'll need to talk to County about obtaining ROWs.

A: Good, we'll be doing that.

Map 6. Proposed Route Closures

This map is under development. More detailed maps on this topic will be available soon.

No questions

Map 7. Restoration Sites

No questions

Map x. Administrative Access

No questions

There will also be additional elements to proposed plan that are not site- or route-specific, including monitoring plans and road inspections.

General questions:

Q: What if the Silverbell Mine expands its operation west across the existing Silverbell Loop Road (which is on ASARCO property)?

A: The portion of the Silverbell Loop Road that is past the mine is a private road which has been open to public use by courtesy of the landowner. It is not a public road. Any road agreement with the landowner will have provisions for that possibility and for relocation of the road.

II. Participant feedback on proposed projects

Participants were given 5 sticky notes each and asked to indicate the projects that are most important to them by placing a sticky note on a piece of paper with the project title. Claire clarified that just because a project gets no “stickies” tonight does not mean it will not be implemented. All project elements considered here tonight will be part of the Environmental Assessment.

The order in which projects will be implemented will consider tonight’s input, as well as regulatory issues, land-use plan decisions, permits, rights-of-way, and types of funding available. Thus, the item with the highest number of “stickies” may not necessarily be the first to be implemented.

Results of Sticky-Note Input:

Route nomination for Federal Land Access Program (main access route off I-10) (3)
(comment note: “Road signs very important – do sooner rather than later)

Cocoraque road maintenance (1)

Sawtooth road maintenance (1)

Site improvements and development (2)

Easements and rights of way (1)

Implementation of route closures (7)

Restoration (6)

West Silverbell road maintenance (3)

DRAFT notes for review

Projects with no “stickies”:

Waterman road maintenance

Samaniego road maintenance

Agua Blanca – Agua Dulce road maintenance

Roskruge road maintenance

III. Next Steps

Tonight’s input will be used in defining the scope of the project plan for analysis in the IFNM Transportation and Travel Management Plan EA. Ongoing information about the project plan will be available online at [**http://on.doi.gov/1asacFO**](http://on.doi.gov/1asacFO).